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REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-18, 20-22, and 24-30 are pending in the present application after this amendment cancels claims 15, 19, and 23 and adds new claims 24-30. Claims 1-14, 16-18, 20-22 and the specification have been amended to correct typographic errors and/or to clarify the subject matter recited therein.

No new matter is added by the amendments and new claims, which find support throughout the specification and figures. In particular, the claim amendments and new claims are supported by the following sections: claims 1, 16 and 20 are supported at least by figures 4 and 7; claims 2, 17 and 21 are supported at least by figure 8 and steps S67-S71 in figure 15; new claim 24 is supported at least by figures 6 and 12; new claim 25 is supported at least by figure 12 and case 1 or 2 in figure 13C; new claim 26 is supported at least by case 3 in figure 13C; new claims 27 and 28 are supported at least by case 4 in figure 13C; new claim 29 are supported at least by figures 9 and 10; and new claim 30 is supported at least by figure 14.

In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification and claim 10 based on several informalities. The specification and claim 10 are amended herein to respond to the objections and it is therefore respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 9, 10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants herein amend the rejected claims and respectfully submit that the amended claims are definite.

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Claims 15, 19, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on United States Patent No. 5,819,292 to Hitz et al. (hereinafter Hitz). Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims 15, 19 and 23 obviates these rejections.

Claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Allegedly Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 7-295814 to Koyama (hereinafter Koyama). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to a data management apparatus for managing data used when executing an application program included in a switching system for providing services related to communication. The data management apparatus of claim 1 includes a data field storing the data and an address acquirer acquiring an address in said data field of the data for which an access is requested by the application program. The data management apparatus of claim 1 further includes *a lending pointer table storing at least one of pointer records, each of which has the acquired address and a pointer corresponding to the acquired address, the pointer indicating an address of the pointer record, and a lender reading out the pointer from said lending pointer table to lend the read pointer to the application program.*

Neither of AAPA nor Koyama disclose or suggest a lending pointer table storing at least one of pointer records, each of which has the acquired address and a pointer corresponding to the acquired address, the pointer indicating an address of the pointer record, as recited in claim 1. In figure 21 of AAPA, the data management module acquires an address "adr-1" of a data field in response to a pointer lending request from an application program to lend the address "adr-1" to the application program as a pointer.

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Thereinafter, the application program can read (access) data stored in the address "adr-1" (access target field) through usage of the lent pointer. Here, *the lent pointer is an address of the data field*. Also, Koyama apparently discusses a pointer table stored in an index (a management number of the tag name) and a pointer (an address of a data field). Therefore, Koyama requires a tag name management table stored in correspondence between the tag name and the management number.

In the present invention recited in each of Claims 1, 16 and 20, as a pointer to access data stored in a data field, an address (record address) of a pointer record stored in a lending pointer table is lent to an application program.

In Koyama's invention, a management number of a tag name is stored in a pointer table with a pointer (address) instead of the tag name. Tag names are used to manage data in Koyama's invention, which requires a tag name management table. On the contrary, the present invention does not require a tag name management table as described in Koyama. That is, the present invention need not to relate the record address to an identifier of the stored data such as a data name.

Further, Koyama fails to teach or suggest that an address of a pointer record stored in the lending pointer table is given to the application program, as a pointer to access to the data stored in the data field. Therefore, the present invention recited in Claims 1, 16, and 20 is distinguished from Koyama and AAPA.

Claims 2, 17, or 21 depend from Claims 1, 16, and 20, respectively, and therefore these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claims 1, 16, and 20 are allowable, as discussed above.

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Additionally, the present invention recited in each of Claims 2, 17, or 21 includes the limitation "the address stored in the pointer record is changed into an address of a relocation destination in the data field in response to relocation of the data stored in the data field." The address stored in the pointer record is changed in response to the relocation of the corresponding data. Thereby, the application program can keep using the lent pointer without any relation to the relocation of data. However, Koyama fails to teach or suggest a change of the address based on the data relocation. Therefore, for at least this additional reason, Claims 2, 17 and 21 are distinguished from Koyama and AAPA.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,029,160 to Cabrera et al. (hereinafter Cabrera). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama in view of Cabrera, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,787,442 to Hacherl et al. (hereinafter Hacherl). Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,502,836 to Hale et al. (hereinafter Hale). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 4,755,939 to Watson et al. (hereinafter Watson). Claims 8, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,819,292 to Hitz et al. (hereinafter Hitz). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama in view of Hitz, and further in view of Hacherl.

The present invention recited in Claims 3-14, 18, and 22 has the same feature discussed above and recited in claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 20 or 21. Therefore, the present

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invention recited in Claims 3-14, 18, and 22 is distinguished from the cited references for the same reasons discussed above.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 24-30 recite features not disclosed, or suggested in any of the prior art references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are also allowable.

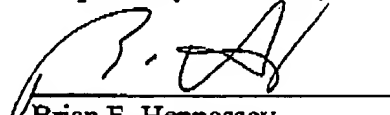
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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